

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of relay apparatuses are provided within an IP network of an ISP, and these relay apparatuses are connected to each other by logical tunnels. Each relay apparatus determines the type of a destination address at the Layer 2 level from the data loaded from a host device. When the type is for broadcast, the relay apparatus identifies a tunnel as a relay destination from the data contents set in correlation with destination addresses at the Layer 3 level, and transmits the data only to the relevant relay destination tunnel.